Orange Factory Village, House No. 5
Old Orange Factory Road (St. Rt. 1628)
Durham
Durham County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-9 B

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ORANGE FACTORY VILLAGE, HOUSE No. 5 HABS No. NC-9 B

Location: Old Orange Factory Road, Durham County, NC
(Number 5)
USGS NW/4 Durham North 15' Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates
17.691100.4000070

Present Owner: Susanne Schneider
Real Estate Administrator
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Present Occupant: Demolished, summer 1984

Significance: The Orange Factory houses, dating from the 1860's were built to accommodate employees of one of the earliest cotton mills in North Carolina. They assume historical significance as components of the mill complex and as the former nucleus of a company village, Orange Factory, North Carolina.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: early 1850's

2. Original and subsequent owners: Pages 33-36 of Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, show the chain of title to the land on which the house sta

3. Original plans and construction: No original drawings or plans have been located. Two-story, three-bay wide frame house is original.

4. Alterations and additions: The one-story shed roof porch across the front and electricity were added about 1916. The one-story frame ell to the rear was constructed at an undetermined date.

8. Historical Context:

Orange Factory, a small rural mill village located in the Little River valley, dates from the 1850's and provides an important picture of the early stages in the development of industrial life in North Carolina. Its collection of Greek Revival style workers' housing represents one of perhaps less than five remaining examples in North Carolina of pre-Civil War mill workers' housing. The remains of the cotton factory, water race system and grist mill, along with the dam, workers' housing with garden plots, supervisors' houses, schoolhouse, church, cemetery and well show the physical context in which the social and economic life of this self-sustaining community functioned. Orange Factory village is representative of the period when industrial sites were dependent on water power and thus located along the waterways of North Carolina in relatively isolated, rural settings. Unlike some early industrial sites which developed into larger towns, and other later ones which started out in more urban settings, Orange Factory has retained its small-scale, rural atmosphere indicative of the early mill villages in the state.

Prepared from materials cited in
Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, by

Annette Liggett
Environmental Coordinator
City of Durham
March 1984

(House Number 5)

PART II ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed as part of the Orange Factory Mill complex, this worker's house typifies the wood framed, clapboard sided worker's houses which constituted mid-nineteenth century, rural venacular architecture. In general, they are I plan, center hall, two story structures with one story additions.

2. Condition of the fabric: The exterior masonry was in sound condition as were the clapboard walls, windows and doors. Roofs were generally in good condition. The structure was scheduled to be demolished during the summer of 1984.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The main two story section of the house is 35'-9" long and 18'-5" wide. A one story wing on the rear of the house is 18'-0" long and 18'-5" wide (across the gable end).

2. Foundations: The house is built on rubble stone foundations which were stuccoed over on the outside. The crawl space beneath the first floor was inaccessible. The rear wing is supported on brick piers with concrete block infill.

3. Walls: Exterior walls were sheathed in painted wood clapboard with a 5" exposure on the main section with plain double corner boards. The rear section was clad in beaded wood siding with a 5" exposure. Below the floor line, plywood panels and corrugated metal were used to enclose the high crawl space.

4. Structural system, framing: The interior and exterior walls were constructed with wood studs which supported wood floor joists, neither of which were accessible. The roof system consisted of wood rafters (exposed external to the house at the eaves) and it is assumed from the upper story configuration that the rafters were connected with wood ties.

5. Porches: The front entrance porch consists of wood post framing supporting a simple shed roof clad in corrugated galvanized tin, and a wood board floor measuring 31'-10" X 7'-0".

6. Chimneys: The south chimney is brick and originally served two fireplaces, one on the first and one on the second floor. A concrete block chimney on the east side of the rear section served a furnace in the crawl space. A third chimney located on the south side of the main roof was constructed of day pipe and presumably served a free standing heater or stove (no longer extant) in the second floor east bedroom.

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways and doors: The main door to the house contained six (6) large glass lights and three (3) horizontal raised panels. The doors throughout the remainder of the house varied including five (5) horizontal panels and four (4) vertical panels with one intermediate horizontal panel. All doors were solid, paneled, and painted, with simple, flat board architraves.

   b. Windows: Six over six, double hung windows are typical. The interior and exterior architraves are simple flat boards with shallow sills.

8. Roof:

   a. Shape, covering: The roof on the main and rear sections of the house are simple gables covered in corrugated galvanized tin. The front porch roof is a simple shed also covered in corrugated galvanized tin.

   b. Cornice: A single, rectangular board forms the barge boards at the gable ends of the roof. There is no cornice at the eaves where the rafter tails were left exposed.

   c. Dormers, towers: Not applicable.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

   a. Cellar: Beneath the rear section exists a windowless, open, full cellar with a dirt floor.

   b. First floor: The entrance door off the front porch leads into a central hall containing a straight stair to the second floor and also connects to the rear section of the house. Two front rooms flank each side of the entry hall. The entrance to the east room is at the

foot of the stair, and in the corner of the room. The entrance to the parlor is in the middle of the hall and is on axis with the fireplace, located on the center of the outside west wall. To the rear of the house, the hall leads into an entry foyer from which one may enter a rear room or an internal hallway. There is a small bathroom off the hall.

c. Second floor: The stair from the first floor lands in a hallway which divides the upper part of the main section of the house equally. Two (2) bedrooms flank the center hall.

d. Attic: Inaccessible.

2. Stairway: A single open stair with simple rectangular balusters and a heavy, raised paneled newel post connects the first and second floors. The stair is built against the east wall of the central hall. The stair was constructed of exposed wood treads and risers with beaded sideboards.

3. Flooring: The flooring throughout the building was painted, tongue and groove, pine flooring.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings were plastered; walls were painted or papered; ceilings were painted.

5. Doorways and doors: Typically doorways consisted of simple casings of flat boards. Doors were of the five (5) panel variety, either all horizontal or two vertical pairs divided by one horizontal. Door widths varied; heights were 6'-6".

6. Decorative features: The newel post on the staircase was the only decorative feature existing. The house is generally devoid of detail.

7. Hardware: The doors were hung on simple cast butt hinges and operated with surface mounted rim locks with china knobs. Window sash locks were simple metal castings.

8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heat was provided by an oil fired hot air furnace. Cooling is provided by portable window units. Ventilation is achieved through open windows.

b. Lighting: The house is equipped with wiring, outlets, and a few rooms have modest ceiling mounted light fixtures.

c. Plumbing: The house is equipped with plumbing including well water and a septic system.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The house faces west, and is sited along Old Orange Factory Road (S.R. 1628), a dirt road. The size of the lot is unknown.

2. Outbuildings: On the southeast corner of the house stood a small, square, storage shed.

3. Landscaping, enclosures: The landscaping consisted of a few small, miscellaneous shrubs, and an open lawn, with no enclosures.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Early views:

1913 Sanborn Insurance Map

1937 Sanborn Insurance Map

B. Interviews:

Interviews are cited in Orange Factory Village, HABS No. NC-9, on page 46.

C. Bibliography:

Secondary and published sources: The major source for all material was Cultural Resource Investigations at Orange Factory, Libscomb's and Johnston's Mills, Durham Co., NC prepared by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc., Newark, Deleware, in December 1983. Other sources were those cited in that document, as shown.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Due to the proposed construction of a water supply reservoir by the City of Durham, a Memorandum of Agreement was designed which would assure the mitigation of impact to defined significant cultural resources within the reservoir basin. These included archaeological resources consisting of three mill sites and a mill village, Orange Factory; the architectural resources at the mill village (workers houses), and the history and folk-lifeways of the villagers. The necessary data recovery operations, as specified in the MOA, were conducted by Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Research, Inc. and qualified consultants. This was accomplished during the spring and summer of 1983. Data recovered concerns 18th and 19th century grist mills, a 19th and early 20th century textile mill operation, and the 19th and 20th century workers village and community residents.

The combination of historical sites archaeology, historic documentary research, architectural recordation, and oral history studies, was generally effective in assuring the preservation of much of the cultural background and details of the rural North Carolina industrial complex.